PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:

Haynes, Joel R. Wonderling, Ramani S. Stinchcomb, Dan T.

U.S. Patent No.: 6,770,282 B1

Issue Date: August 3, 2004

Atty. File No.: DE-3-C2-PUS

For: "CATIONIC LIPID-MEDIATED ENHANCEMENT OF NUCLEIC ACID

IMMUNIZATION OF CATS'

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF
CORRECTION OF PATENT
FOR PTO MISTAKE
(37 C.F.R. 1.322(a))

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL ADDRESSED TO COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313-1450, THIS 12TH DAY OF AUGUST 2005

OF AUGUST 2005.

)

HESKA CORPORATION

Susan A. Gordon

Certificate

AUG 1 7 2005

of Correction

This is a request for a Certificate of Correction under 37 C.F.R. 1.322(a). Attached in duplicate is Form PTO-1050. The error in this patent is obviously a scanning error made by the USPTO. The correction to Claim 7 is supported by the amendments to the claims submitted in the Interview Summary, filed March 3, 2004, and accepted by the Examiner in the Notice of Allowance, dated March 23, 2004 (see copies of both documents attached).

In Claim 7, column 22, line 12, please delete "wherein n single" and replace with ---wherein a single--.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 12, 2005

Richard J. Stern, Ph.D.

Registration No. 50,668

Heska Corporation

3760 Rocky Mountain Ave. Loveland, Colorado 80538

Telephone: (970) 493-7272 Facsimile: (970) 619-3011



TED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO : 6,770,282 B1
DATED : Aug. 3, 2004

INVENTOR(S): Joel R. Haynes, Ramani S. Wonderling, Dan T. Stinchcomb

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

In Claim 7, column 22, line 12, please delete "wherein n single" and replace with --wherein a single--.

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER: Heska Corporation

Heska Corporation Intellectual Property Dept. 3760 Rocky Mountain Ave. Loveland, Colorado 80538 PATENT NO. 6,770,282 B1

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO : 6,770,282 B1

DATED

: Aug. 3, 2004

INVENTOR(S): Joel R. Haynes, Ramani S. Wonderling, Dan T. Stinchcomb

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In Claim 7, column 22, line 12, please delete "wherein n single" and replace with --wherein a single--.

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Examiner Shanon A. Foley, Group Art Unit 1648

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Subject:

Attorney File No. DE-3-C2-PUS

U.S. Patent Application Script No: 09/830,221

Fron:

Richard J. Storn, Ph.D. (970-493-7272 - Ext 4174)

PAGE 1.5 * RCVD AT 3/3/2004 4:45:45 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXOF-14 * DMS: 8/7/2006 * CSID:970-40149976 * DURATION (mm-ss);01-20

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Subject:

Attorney File No. DE-3-C2-PUS

U.S. Patent Application Serial No: 09/830,221

From:

Richard J. Stern, Ph.D. (970-493-7272 - Ext 4174)

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PATENT APPLICATION

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the representation of:)	Group Art Unit: 1648
)	
Haynes, Joel R.)	Examiner: Foley, Shanon A.
Wonderling, Ramani S.)	
Stinchcomb, Dan T.)	<u>INTERVIEW SUMMARY</u>
•)	
Serial No.: 09/830,221)	
) _[
Filed: August 10, 2001	Ś	CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION
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7 kg. 1 he 1 o <i>DL 3 C2</i> 1 C0	1	NO. 703-872-9306, ADDRESSED TO MAIL STOP AF, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450.
For: "CATIONIC LIPID-MEDIATED	,	ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, THIS 3RD DAY OF MARCH
		2004. HESKA CORPORATION
ENHANCEMENT OF NUCLEIC)	HESKA COLFORATION
ACID IMMUNIZATION OF CATS")	By: Susan U. Sorder
	Į	Susan A. Gordon

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Examiner interview of February 17, 2003, Applicants submit the following claims for consideration:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1-27 (Canceled)
- 28. (New) A method to protect a felid from rabies infection, said method comprising parenterally administering to said felid a composition comprising a purified nucleic acid molecule encoding rabies glycoprotein G, wherein said purified nucleic acid molecule is complexed with a cationic-lipid.
- 29. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein said cationic lipid comprises a tetramethyltetraalkyl spermine analog lipid.
- 30. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein said composition further encodes an immunomodulator.
- 31.(New) The method of Claim 28, wherein said felid is selected from the group consisting of domestic cats, wild cats and zoo cats.
- 32.(New) The method of Claim 28, wherein said felid is selected from the group consisting of domestic cats, lions, tigers, leopards, panthers, cougars, bobcats, lynx, jaguars, cheetahs and servals.
- 33.(New) The method of Claim 28, wherein the felid is a domestic cat.
- 34.(New) The method of Claim 28, wherein a single administration of said composition elicits an immune response.
- 35.(New) The method of Claim 28, wherein said composition enhances an immune response compared to administration of a naked DNA vaccine encoding rabies glycoprotein G
- 36.(New) The method of Claim 28, wherein said step of administering said composition is selected from the group consisting of intramuscular administration, intravenous administration, subcutaneous administration, intradermal administration and intraperitoneal administration.
- 37.(New) The method of Claim 28, wherein said step of administering effects about 75% seroconversion in a population of felids administered said purified nucleic acid molecule.
- 38.(New) The method of Claim 28, wherein said step of administering effects about 100% seroconversion in a population of felids administered said purified nucleic acid molecule.
- 39.(New) The method of Claim 28, wherein said purified nucleic acid molecule:lipid ratio is from about 1:10 to about 10:1.

- 40.(New) The method of Claim 28, wherein said purified nucleic acid molecule is administered in a dose of from about 75 micrograms to about 1,000 micrograms.
- 41.(New) The method of Claim 28, wherein said purified nucleic acid molecule is administered in a dose of not more than about 75 micrograms.
- 42.(New) The method of Claim 28, wherein said composition is dehydrated and subsequently rehydrated prior to administration.
- 43.(New) The method of Claim 28, wherein said composition further comprises an excipient.

REMARKS

Interview Summary

Set o esten

On February 17, 2004, Applicants representatives, Richard Stern and Theresa Brown, met with Examiner Shanon Foley and discussed pending Claims 1-27. The Examiner acknowledged the combination of Paoletti with McCluskie et al. and Ray et al. was incorrect and that Claim 3, and all claims depending from it, would be allowable.

The Examiner then stated she had identified new prior art and any further consideration of the rejected claims would be made in light of the newly identified art. She then presented Applicants representatives with copies of this newly identified art which consisted of:

- WO 98/03660
- Yokoyama, et al, FEMS Immunology and Medical Microbiology, 1997, 14(4):221-30
- Cuisinier et al., Vaccine 1997, 15(10):1085-1094

CONCLUSION

In view of discussions held with the Examiner, Applicants believe the newly submitted claims are in condition for allowance. If there are any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 3, 2004

Richard J. Stern Ph.D.
Registration No. 50,668

Heska Corporation

1613 Prospect Parkway

Fort Collins, Colorado 80525

Telephone: (970) 493-7272 (ext. 4174)

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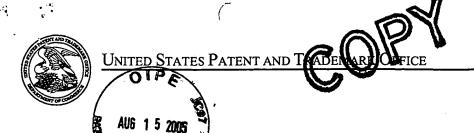
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EXAMINER
FOLEY, SHANON A

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PAPER NUMBER

ART UNIT

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2004

	APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
•	09/830.221	08/10/2001	Joel R. Havnes	DF-3-C2-PUS	3163

TITLE OF INVENTION: CATIONIC LIPID-MEDIATED ENHANCEMENT OF NUCLEIC ACID IMMUNIZATION OF CATS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$665	\$0	\$665	06/23/2004

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. <u>PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED</u>. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

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I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

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B. If the status is changed, pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above and notify the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or

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A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

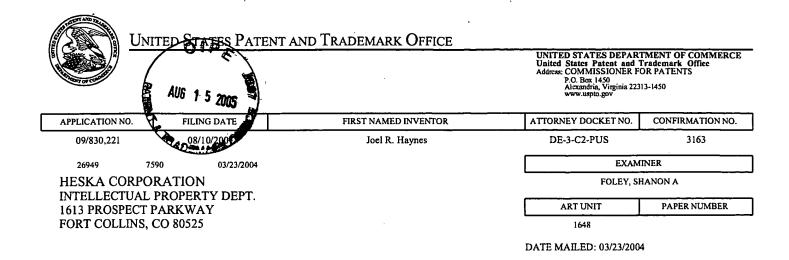
B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check the box below and enclose the PUBLICATION FEE and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status.
 See 37 CFR 1.27.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.



Determination of Patent Term Extension under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(application filed after June 7, 1995 but prior to May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Extension is 0 day(s). Any patent to issue from the above-identified application will include an indication of the 0 day extension on the front page.

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Extension is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (703) 305-1383. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.

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	Application No.	Applicant(s)
AUC 4 F	9/830,221	HAYNES ET AL.
Notice of Allowability Aug 1 5 2005	Examiner	Art Unit
	Shanon Foley	1648
The MAILING DATE of this communication appear All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (Inherewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) of NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RICE of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and 1. This communication is responsive to 3/3/04.	OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this or other appropriate communicate HTS. This application is subjection.	application. If not included ion will be mailed in due course. THIS
2. ☐ The allowed claim(s) is/are 28-43.		
The drawings filed on are accepted by the Examiner.		
 4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under a) All b) Some* c) None of the: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * Certified copies not received: 	been received. been received in Application No	
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMETHIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.	of this communication to file a rep ENT of this application.	oly complying with the requirements
5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submit INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives	tted. Note the attached EXAMIN s reason(s) why the oath or decl	ER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF aration is deficient.
 6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson (b) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Paper No./Mail Date Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.1 each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the 	on's Patent Drawing Review (PI Amendment / Comment or in the	e Office action of awings in the front (not the back) of
 DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the depose attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT F 	SIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIA FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOG	L must be submitted. Note the BICAL MATERIAL.
 Attachment(s) 1. ☑ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08 Paper No./Mail Date	6. ☐ Interview Summ Paper No./Mail 8), 7. ☑ Examiner's Ame	Date

Application/Control Number: 09/830,221

Art Unit: 1648

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

The first line of the specification has been amended to include the continuing data:

This application is a U.S. national stage application of PCT International Application No. PCT/US99/24769 and claims priority to provisional application 60/122,446, filed March 2, 1999, now abandoned, and provisional application 60/105,469 filed October 23, 1998, now abandoned.

At the interview on February 17, 2003, the following prior art was discussed of interest.

Audonnet et al. (WO 98/03660) claim a vaccine formulation for felines comprising a plasmid expressing heterologous genes, one of which is glycoprotein G from rabies, see claim 1. However, Audonnet et al. do not complex the polynucleotide vaccine formulation with a cationic lipid. Further, Audonnet et al. do not provide a working example demonstrating prophylactic efficacy in felines. The data in the working examples of the instant specification clearly shows unexpected results with the claimed formulation because cats exhibited a protective, neutralizing antibody response and mice did not. Therefore, it is evident that the asserted protective efficacy of the vaccine composition of Audonnet et al. is indeterminable because the reference does not evaluate the immune response upon administrations to cats.

Cuisinier et al. (Vaccine. July, 1997; 15 (10): 1085-1094) teach DNA vaccination with plasmids encoding structural FIV structural proteins. However, the data obtained by Cuisinier et

Application/Control Number: 09/830,221

Art Unit: 1648

al. do not provide any evidence of success of administering a plasmid encoding rabies glycoprotein G, especially since Cuisinier et al. teach that cats did not develop neutralizing titers to FIV gp120, see the results and discussion sections. Further, Cuisinier et al. do not complex the plasmid with a cationic lipid.

Yokoyama et al. (FEMS. 1996; 14: 221-230) teach that DNA complexed with cationic lipids induces antibodies and CTL. However, Yokoyama et al. do not teach or suggest the effect of administering such a composition expressing rabies glycoprotein G to cats. As discussed above, the data in the working examples demonstrate unexpected neutralizing antibody titers in cats where none was observed in mice. Yokoyama et al. do not indicate that there would be a difference in immune response to a DNA complex with a cationic lipid in different hosts.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shanon Foley whose telephone number is (571) 272-0898. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Housel can be reached on (571) 272-0902. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Application/Control Number: 09/830,221

Art Unit: 1648

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shanon Fold

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMPLE

TO INCLUDE GOY CENTER 1809

Notice of References Cited

Notice of References Cited

Shanon Foley

Application/Control No.

Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
HAYNES ET AL.

Art Unit
Page 1 of 1

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*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
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	В	US-			
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	К	US-			
	L	US-			
	М	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N	WO 98/03660	01-1998	PCT	Audonnet et al.	
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NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	Cuisinier et al. Vaccine. July, 1997; 15 (10): 1085-1094.
	٧	Yokoyama et al. FEMS. 1996; 14: 221-230.
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*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)

Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

US006770282B1

(12) United States Patent

Haynes et al.

(10) Patent No.:

US 6,770,282 B1

(45) Date of Patent:

Aug. 3, 2004

Proofed 9-13-04/6

(54) CATIONIC LIPID-MEDIATED ENHANCEMENT OF NUCLEIC ACID IMMUNIZATION OF CATS

(75) Inventors: Joel R. Haynes, Mazomanie, WI (US);
Ramani S. Wonderling, Waukegan, IL
(US); Dan T. Stinchcomb, Fort Collins,
CO (US)

(73) Assignee: Heska Corporation, Fort Collins, CO (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **09/830,221**

(22) PCT Filed: Oct. 22, 1999

(86) PCT No.: PCT/US99/24769

§ 371 (c)(1),

(2), (4) Date: Aug. 10, 2001

(87) PCT Pub. No.: WO00/24428
PCT Pub. Date: May 4, 2000

Related U.S. Application Data

- (60) Provisional application No. 60/122,446, filed on Mar. 2, 1999, now abandoned, and provisional application No. 60/105,469, filed on Oct. 23, 1998, now abandoned.
- (51) Int. CL⁷ A61K 39/39; A61K 39/385; A61K 39/12; A61K 39/205

(56) References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,726,946 A	2/1988	Bass et al 424/89
5.505.941 A	* 4/1996	Paoletti 424/93.2
		Felgner et al 514/44

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

WO WO 95/30019 11/1995 WO WO 98/03660 * 1/1998 WO WO 99/66879 12/1999

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Cuisinier et al. Vaccine. Jul., 1997; 15 (10): 1085-1094.* Yokoyama et al. FEMS. 1996; 14: 221-230.* Ray et al. Vaccine. 1997; 15 (8): 892-895.*

McCluskie et al. Antisense and Nucleic Acid Drug Development. 1998; 8: 401-414.*

Davis et al., 1997, Vaccine, vol. 15, No. 8, pp. 849-852.

Donnelly et al., 1997, Annu. Rev. Immunol., vol. 15, pp. 617-648.

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Gramzinski et al., 1998, Molecular Medicine, vol. 4, pp. 109-118.

Gregoriadis et al., 1997, FEBS Letters, vol. 402, pp. 107-110.

Ishii et al., 1997, Aids Research and Human Retroviruses, vol. 13, No. 16, pp. 1421-1428.

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Norman et al., 1997, Vaccine, vol. 15, No. 8, pp. 801-803.

Osorio et al., 1999, Vaccine, vol. 17, pp. 1109-1116.

Philip et al., 1994, Molecular and Cellular Biology, pp. 2411-2418.

Stamatatos et al., 1988, *Biochemistry*, vol. 27, pp. 3917-3925.

Stopeck et al., 1998, *Cancer Gene Therapy*, vol. 5, No. 2, pp. 119–126.

Xiang et al., 1996, Virology, vol. 219, pp. 220-227.

Yokoyama et al., 1996, FEMS Immunology and Medical Microbiology, vol. 14, pp. 221-230.

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—James Housel
Assistant Examiner—Shanon Foley
(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Heska Corporation

(57) ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a method to introduce a nucleic acid molecule into a felid by administration of a nucleic acid-cationic lipid complex composition. The method includes the step of administering to the felid, by a parenteral route, a nucleic acid-cationic lipid complex to elicit and/or enhance an immune response. In one embodiment, this method enhances the immune response in a felid compared to a method in which a naked DNA vaccine is administered to a felid. Also provided is a method to deliver a nucleic acid to a felid. This method comprises parenterally administering to the felid a composition that includes a nucleic acid molecule complexed with a cationic lipid.

16 Claims, No Drawings

21

sectioned using a cryostat and the sections were stained using hematoxylin and eosin to analyze the population of cells infiltrating the sites of injection. Muscle samples were also stained with antibodies specific for B-cells (anti-CD79a antibodies) using techniques known to those skilled in the 5

No differences were seen among the various lymph nodes with respect to cell infiltration. In the muscle samples where vehicle alone, lipid alone or naked rabies G vector was injected, the infiltrating population of cells were mostly macrophage-like cells. In contrast, in the muscle sample where the formulation comprising rabies G vector complexed with lipid was infected, the infiltrating cells were predominantly lymphocyte-like cells. Staining results with anti-CD79a antibodies suggested that the majority of lymphocytes present were T cells.

These results, as well as others provided herein, suggest that administration of nucleic acid molecules complexed with cationic lipids to cats leads to enhanced expression of the protein encoded by the nucleic acid molecule and infiltration of lymphocytes to the injection site which apparently does not occur when naked nucleic acid molecules are administered in a similar manner. Without being bound by theory, it is believed that this infiltration of lymphocytes might explain the enhanced immune response seen with nucleic acid molecule-cationic lipid complexes of the

While various embodiments of the present invention have been described in detail, it is apparent that modifications and adaptations of those embodiments will occur to those skilled in the art. It is to be expressly understood, however, that such modifications and adaptations are within the scope of the present invention, as set forth in the following claims.

22

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said composition further encodes an immunomodulator.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said felid is selected from the group consisting of domestic cats, wild cats and

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said felid is selected from the group consisting of domestic cats, lions, tigers, leopards, panthers, cougars, bobcats, lynx, jaguars, cheetahs and servals.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the felid is a domestic

7. The method of claim 1, wherein n single administration of said composition elicits an immune response.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said composition enhances an immune response compared to administration of a naked DNA vaccine encoding rabies glycoprotein G.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of administering said composition is selected from the group consisting of intramuscular administration, intravenous administration, subentaneous administration, intradermal administration and intraperitoneal administration.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of administering effects about 75% seroconversion in a population of felids administered said purified nucleic acid molecule.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of administering effects about 100% seroconversion in a population of felids administered said purified nucleic acid molecule.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein said purified nucleic acid molecule:lipid ratio is from about 1:10 to about 10:1. 13. The method of claim 1, wherein said purified nucleic acid molecule is administered in a dose about 75 micrograms to about 1,000 micrograms.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein said purified nucleic acid molecule is administered in a dose of not more than about 75 micrograms.

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28

What is claimed is:

1. A method to protect a felid from rabies infection, said method comprising parenterally administering to said felid a composition comprising a purified nucleic acid molecule encoding rabies glycoprotein G, wherein said purified nucleic acid molecule is complexed with a cationic lipid.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said cationic lipid comprises a tetramethyltetraalkyl spermine analog lipid.

60 15. The method of claim 1, wherein said composition is dehydrated and subsequently rehydrated prior to adminis-

16. The method of claim 1, wherein said composition 65 further comprises an excipient.